Oversight Hearing of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development

Pharmacy Benefit Managers 101

Monday, March 20, 2017 3 p.m., State Capitol, Room 3191

Speaker biographies

John D. Jones, R.Ph., J.D., FAMCP, Health Policy Consultant, Pharmaceutical Care Management Association

John Jones is an expert on managed care pharmacy practice, law and policy. Until recently, he served as the Senior Vice President of Professional Practice and Pharmacy Policy at OptumRx, a UnitedHealth Group Company, in Irvine, California. He helped OptumRx grow to 65 million covered lives during his 21 years of service.

Mr. Jones is licensed as both a pharmacist and an attorney. He has broad experience with over forty years of pharmacy practice ranging from chain and independent community pharmacy to hospital, home infusion and managed care pharmacy. He has applied his legal skills in the fields of managed healthcare legislative policy and regulation, health insurance, healthcare contracting, and interstate regulatory compliance for prescription mail service and pharmacy benefit management companies.

Mr. Jones teaches Law and Ethics at the University of California at San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and is entering his 7th year of instruction.

Mr. Jones served on the California Board of Pharmacy for eight years, two of those years as its president. He is an active member of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA).

Mr. Jones is a native of Idaho and graduated from Idaho State University with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. He earned his law degree from the University of San Francisco.

Jon R. Roth, MS, CAE, CEO, California Pharmacists Association

Jon Roth is the Chief Executive Officer for the California Pharmacists Association. In this role Mr. Roth oversees all aspects of the association's operations, health policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of California pharmacists. The California Pharmacists Association is the largest statewide professional society of pharmacists in the country.

Mr. Roth has 25 years of experience in health policy, advocacy, and member services within a variety of health care sectors. As CEO for CPhA, Mr. Roth and his team were directly responsible for the development and passage of Senate Bill 493 (Hernandez, Chapter 469, Statutes of 2013), the landmark legislation granting pharmacists 'provider status' and greatly expanding the clinical authorities of pharmacists in California. This accomplishment was recognized by the United States Surgeon General for "successful contributions in leading legislative change to expand the role of California pharmacists as health care providers".

He earned his bachelor of science in business administration and masters degree in Organizational Development. He is only one of 3,000 association professionals nationally to have achieved the industry credential of Certified Association Executive.

David Balto, J.D., Attorney, Law Offices of David A. Balto

David Balto has over 15 years of government antitrust experience as a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and in several senior level positions at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Mr. Balto is nationally known for his expertise in competition policy and is a prolific author on antitrust, consumer protection, financial services, intellectual property, and health care competition. His office has been at the forefront of efforts to battle egregious, deceptive and anticompetitive conduct by some pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). He has represented health plans, employers, unions, pharmacies, consumer groups, and PBMs on various competition issues.

As Policy Director at the FTC, Mr. Balto was instrumental in bringing some of the first enforcement actions against major PBMs. His office frequently objects to proposed PBM mergers including AdvancePCS/Caremark, Express Scripts/Caremark and Express Scripts/Wellpoint, and authored seminal white papers on the mergers. Mr. Balto often testifies in front of state legislatures and congressional committees on the cost-saving potential of greater transparency and regulation in the PBM market and has been an expert witness in PBM litigation.

David is a Program Fellow in the Health Policy Program of the New America Foundation.